

# Colorado State Capitol LOOK and LEARN

**Symbols** *The Capitol is full of interesting things to see and do! Look around you - how many of the images below can you find? Check the back page to learn more.*



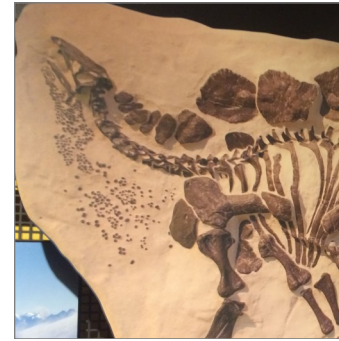
A



B



C

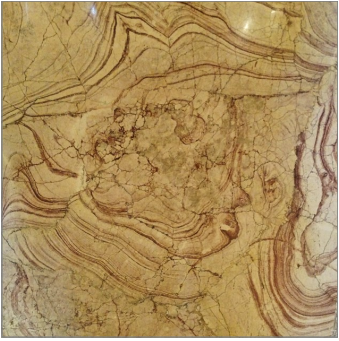


D



E

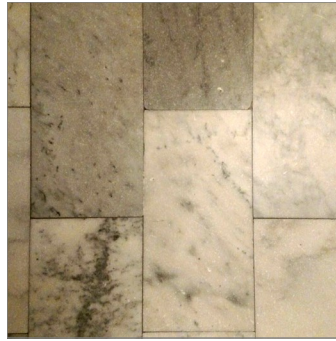
## Architecture and Materials



F



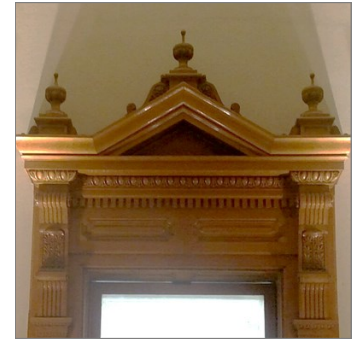
G



H

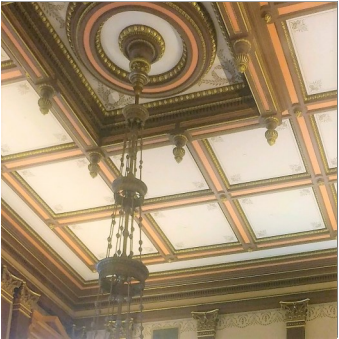


I



J

## Branches of Government



K



L



M



N



O

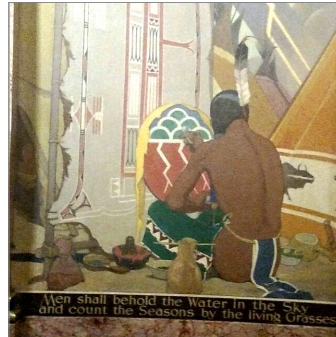
## And More!



P



Q



R



S



T

## COLORADO STATE CAPITOL—LOOK AND LEARN

### Answer Key

**SYMBOLS** *What is a symbol? A symbol is something that represents something else. You will see symbols throughout the Capitol...*

**A** Colorado’s **state flag** was designed in 1911 by Andrew Carlisle Johnson. Our flag symbolizes some of the important natural features of our state—white for our snow-capped mountains, blue for our brilliant blue skies, golden yellow for the abundant sunshine we see in Colorado, and the red C, for the mineral-rich red soil you see in places like Garden of the Gods and Red Rocks. *(Several locations throughout the building)*

**B** The **Great Seal of Colorado** contains classical symbols (such as the Eye of God and the Roman *fascies*, a bundle of rods that symbolizes strength in unity lacking in a single rod), and symbols specific to our state, like mining tools. The Gold Rush of 1858/1859 brought many people to our state. *(Several locations throughout the building, including every door knob!)*

**C** **Oak trees, leaves, and acorns** are ancient symbols of strength and endurance. These trees are not native to Colorado but were included in the design of the Grand Staircase as a nod to the power and strength of our government. *(First floor, rotunda)*

**D** One of our **state symbols** is a fossil—a stegosaurus fossil, discovered by a teacher and students from Cañon City High School. There are only six stegosaurus skeletons on public display in the US, including one at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. *(Mr. Brown’s Attic Museum, west side, above the 3rd floor)*

**E** Another **state symbol** is the white and lavender columbine (or “Rocky Mountain columbine.”) Adopted as a state symbol in 1899, the columbine is also mentioned in one of our two state songs, “Where the Columbines Grow.” (Our second state song is “Rocky Mountain High.”) The columbine pictured here is a detail of the stained glass portrait of Emily Griffith. *(Second floor, north wing)*

**ARCHITECTURE AND MATERIALS** *The Colorado State Capitol was designed by architect Elijah E. Myers in 1886 and took nearly 15 years to construct. The building is a Greek cross design with four arms of equal length, similar to the nation’s Capitol in Washington, D.C., and contains many beautiful materials native to Colorado.*

**F** The beautiful pink stone you see throughout the Capitol is called **rose onyx** and comes from Beulah, Colorado, near Pueblo. It is a very rare material which was used almost in its entirety in the Capitol; the Capitol is only one of three places in the world where you can see it! It is known to contain pictures, such as this profile of a man’s head. Do you think it looks like George Washington? Can you find more images in the rose onyx throughout the building? *(First floor, west wing)*

**G** A **rotunda** is a circular room, often covered by a dome. It comes from a Latin word meaning “round,” and has been used in many important buildings throughout history. Looking up from the first floor, you can see a decorative wooden star in the center of the dome—181 feet above you! *(First floor, center of the building)*

**H** The floors of the Capitol are constructed of **yule marble** from Marble, Colorado. It would have cost less to use marble shipped from Italy than to bring this material down from the mountains, but the Capitol’s designers felt it was very important to use materials native to our state. This stone is used in Washington, D.C., in the Tomb of the Unknowns and the Lincoln Memorial. (Throughout the building)

**I** This **scale model** is a replica (or exact copy) of the Capitol as it looked in 1908. *(Mr. Brown’s Attic Museum; west side, above the 3rd floor)*

**J** The woodwork used in the Capitol’s door frames is not from Colorado but from the Ozark mountains. This **white oak** was hand-carved by some of the highly-skilled craftsmen who helped the Capitol’s designers fulfill their mission to build the most beautiful building in Colorado. *(Located throughout the Capitol)*

**BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT** *The Capitol is the center of state government in Colorado. Today, the Executive and Legislative branches work out of the Capitol, while the Judicial branch is located in the Ralph L. Carr Judicial Center at 14th and Lincoln Avenues, across from the Capitol. Originally, the Capitol housed all three branches of state government.*

**K** The **Old Supreme Court Chamber** was once used by the Supreme Court of Colorado (Judicial branch). Its magnificent chandelier, like most of the light fixtures in the building, is original. It weighs two thousand pounds, or one ton! The windows you see on the upper level are *Heritage Windows*, honoring different ethnic groups who made important contributions in forming our state. *(Second floor, north side)*

**L** The Governor’s office is known as the **Executive Chamber**. The Governor is elected to office by the voters of Colorado and represents our state in dealing with other states, the federal government, and other countries. *(First floor, south side)*

**M** The **House of Representatives** chamber is the largest room in the Capitol. 65 members work in this room, where they consider legislation to benefit the lives of people in our state. *(House Gallery viewing area, third floor, west side)*

**N** The **Department of the Treasury** is where the state’s investment and finances are managed. Did you notice that the Executive offices are all located on the first floor? The legislative offices are located on the second and third floors. *(First floor, north side)*

**O** The **Senate** is where our 35 state senators work. Like their counterparts in the House, these elected officials work to make laws in our state. Together, the House and Senate are known as the **General Assembly**. *(Second floor, south side)*

### AND SO MUCH MORE!

**P** The **Women’s Gold tapestry** was a gift to the Capitol to celebrate our state’s centennial in 1976 and over 3,500 people contributed at least a stitch to the piece. It pays homage to “the courage, perseverance, and sacrifices” made by women in Colorado. Here you see author Mary Coyle Chase and her creation “Harvey”, a 6 foot tall invisible bunny in the WWII era comedic play, *Harvey*. *(First floor, near elevators)*

**Q** How many stars do you count in this flag? This replica flag is a **38 star flag** was used between 1877, after Colorado became the 38th state in 1876 and 1890, after four more states were admitted into the Union in 1889. (or *(Mr. Brown’s Attic Museum; north side, above the 3rd floor)*)

**R** Allen Tupper True’s **murals** depict an incredibly valuable resource in Colorado: water. Each panel shows how people in this area have used water throughout history. The first panel depicts a Native American Indian at work while a fierce thunderstorm brings rain in the background. The poem that accompanies the mural is called *Here is a Land Where Life is Written in Water* by Thomas Hornsby Ferrill. *(First floor, rotunda)*

**S** Can you identify this artifact? In the days before cellphones, pay **telephone booths** were a common sight all over the world. Here at the Capitol we have kept ours (though they no longer contain phones). *(Second floor, near the elevators)*

**T** The Capitol is home to a **presidential portrait gallery**. Most of these donated portraits were made by artist Lawrence Williams, with the exception of the portraits of Presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump which were painted by artist Sarah Boardman. We know of three presidents—Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, and Harry S. Truman—who have visited the Capitol while in office. *(Third floor, rotunda)*